

WELCOME TO THE

# RETIREMENT CEREMONY

*In Honor of*

## Chief Master Sergeant LaShonna D. Wooten



★ 18 JUNE 2026 ★

LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, ARIZONA

# SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Opening Narration

Arrival of the Official Party

Presentation of the Colors

National Anthem  
*Staff Sergeant Steven Webb*

Invocation  
*Chaplain William Langston*

Presiding Official Remarks  
*Lieutenant Colonel Maria Berardo*

Medal Presentation

Retirement Order

Certificates of Retirement

Certificate of Appreciation

Retirement Pin

End-of-Trails Presentation  
*Chief Master Sergeant Dewon Rucker*

Remarks  
*Chief Master Sergeant LaShonna Wooten, USAF (Ret)*

Air Force Song

Departure of the Official Party

Closing Narration

Reception  
*Club Five Six  
Zemke Lounge  
14000 Eagle St., Luke AFB, AZ 85309*

# Chief's Creed

Chief Master Sergeants are  
individually to be regarded as people:

Who cannot be bought;

Whose word is their bond;

Who put character above wealth;

Who possess opinions and a will;

Who will not lose their individuality in a crowd;

Who do not hesitate to take chances;

Who will be as honest in small things as in great ones;

Who will make no compromise with wrong;

Whose ambitions are not confined to their own selfish  
desires and interests;

Who are true to their friends through good report and evil  
report, in adversity as well as prosperity;

Who do not believe that shrewdness, cunning, and hard-  
headedness are the best qualities for winning success;

Who are not ashamed or afraid to stand for the truth  
when it is unpopular,

Who can say "No" with emphasis,  
although all the world is saying "Yes."

# Lieutenant Colonel Maria K. Berardo

Lieutenant Colonel Maria K. Berardo is the Commander of the 56th Force Support Squadron, Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. She leads the wing's fourth largest and most diverse squadron of 481 Airmen and Civilian members in the delivery of premier, customer-focused manpower, personnel, education, sustainment, family, and recreation services to the Air Force's largest fighter wing. She executes a combined annual budget of \$10.7M, integrates 10 flights, and oversees 67 activities through service delivery and strategic messaging for over 150 quality of life programs supporting 7.4K joint personnel, 1.3K civilian employees, 8K dependents, and 80K retirees.



Colonel Berardo received her commission in 2010 through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. She has served in various roles at stateside and overseas locations across the squadron, wing, and joint levels. Her previous duties include Section Chief, Flight Commander, Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, Operations Officer, and Deputy Commander. She has also deployed in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM as a Human Resources Senior Advisor for NATO Training Mission Afghanistan and Combined Security Transition Afghanistan.

Prior to her current assignment, Colonel Berardo was a Student at Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Alabama. While there, she studied the theory and application of the profession of arms, leadership, ethics, airpower, joint and contemporary warfare, and international security to think critically, lead teams, and solve complex problems for the challenges ahead. Colonel Berardo and her husband, Joshua, have three children Miya, Noah, and Jonah.

## **EDUCATION:**

- 2010 Bachelor of Business Administration, Human Resources, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Honolulu, HI
- 2010 Air and Space Basic Course, Maxwell AFB, AL
- 2017 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, AL
- 2022 Master of Business Administration, Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA
- 2023 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, AL
- 2023 Master of Military Operational Art and Science, Air University, Maxwell AFB, AL

## **ASSIGNMENTS:**

- Jun 10 – Nov 10, Chief, Customer Support, 90th Force Support Squadron, F.E. Warren AFB, WY
- Nov 10 – Mar 11, Chief, Lodging, 90th Force Support Squadron, F.E. Warren AFB, WY
- Mar 11 – Nov 11, Chief, Fitness and Sports, 90th Force Support Squadron, F.E. Warren AFB, WY
- Nov 11 – Jun 12, Chief, Military Personnel Section, 90th Force Support Squadron, F.E. Warren AFB, WY
- Jun 12 – Sep 13, Manpower and Personnel Flight Commander, 90th Force Support Squadron, F.E. Warren AFB, WY (Dec 12 – Jun 13, Human Resources Senior Advisor, NATO Training Mission Afghanistan and Combined Security Transition Afghanistan, Camp Eggers, Afghanistan)
- Sep 13 – Sep 14, Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, 65th Air Base Wing, Lajes Field, Portugal
- Oct 14 – Jan 15, Chief, Military Personnel Section, 48th Fighter Wing, Royal Air Force Lakenheath, England
- Jan 15 – Nov 16, Manpower and Personnel Flight Commander, 48th Fighter Wing, Royal Air Force Lakenheath, England
- Nov 16 – Oct 17, Sustainment Services Flight Commander, 48th Fighter Wing, Royal Air Force Lakenheath, England
- Nov 17 – Nov 18, Operations Officer, St. Louis Military Entrance Processing Station, 11th Battalion, St. Louis, MO
- Nov 18 – Oct 20, Deputy Commander, St. Louis Military Entrance Processing Station, 11th Battalion, St. Louis, MO
- Oct 20 – Jul 22, Operations Officer, 49th Force Support Squadron, Holloman AFB, NM
- Jul 22 – May 23, Student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, AL
- Jun 23 – Present, Commander, 56th Force Support Squadron, Luke AFB, AZ

# Chief Master Sergeant LaShonna D. Wooten

Chief Master Sergeant LaShonna Wooten is the Senior Enlisted Leader for the 56th Force Support Squadron, Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. The diverse squadron provides manpower, personnel services, and programs to enhance morale, quality of life, personnel readiness, family support, and education and training for the Air Force's largest Fighter Wing, providing support to 7,400 joint personnel, 1,300 civilian employees, 8,000 dependents and 80,000 retirees. She directly leads more than 500 military, civilian, and contract personnel and manages 67 activities executing a combined budget of \$10,000,000 annually. The squadron operates and manages recreational activities including the fitness center, dining facility, community activity center, library, outdoor recreation, skills center, and the military club system. She serves as the primary advisor to the commander on the issues affecting the mission effectiveness, morale, welfare, safety, training, utilization, and professional development.



Chief Wooten hails from LaGrange, North Carolina, and entered the United States Air Force in June 2001. Her prior assignments include serving as Security Forces Installation Entry Controller, Flight Armorer, Law Enforcement Desk Sergeant, Dining Facility Shift Supervisor, Food Service Accountant, Quality Assurance Personnel, Supply Non-Commissioned Officer In-Charge, Fitness Assessment Cell Non-Commissioned Officer In-Charge, Assistant Dining Facility Manager, Fitness Center Non-Commissioned Officer In-Charge, and Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of Flight Line Operations. Chief Wooten has deployed to Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Kyrgyzstan, and The United Arab of Emirates in support of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM, IRAQI FREEDOM, INHERENT RESOLVE, FREEDOM's SENTINEL and DELIBERATE RESOLVE.

## EDUCATION:

2007 Airman Leadership School, MacDill AFB, Tampa, FL  
2014 Non-Commissioned Officer Academy, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, HI  
2015 Associates Degree, Fitness, Recreation, & Services Mgt, Community College of the AF  
2016 Sexual Assault Volunteer Victim Advocate, Seymour Johnson AFB, NC  
2020 Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Academy, Gunter AFB, AL  
2024 Chief Leadership Academy

## ASSIGNMENTS:

- June 01 - Aug 01, Trainee, Basic Military Training, Lackland AFB, TX
- Aug 01 - Nov 01, Student, Security Forces Technical School, Lackland AFB, TX
- Dec 01 - Dec 02, Entry Controller, 51st Security Forces Squadron, Osan AB, ROK
- Jan 03 - Aug 07, Law Enforcement Desk Sergeant, 81st Security Forces Sq, Biloxi, MS (Mar 04 - Sep 04, Flight Armorer, 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Sq, Talil AB, Iraq) (Oct 06 - Apr 07, Entry Controller, 386th Expeditionary Security Forces Sq, Ali Al Salem AB, Kuwait)
- Aug 07 - Feb 09, Food Service Shift Leader, 6th Force Support Sq, MacDill AFB, FL (Sep 08 - Mar 09, Assistant DFAC Manager, 379th Expeditionary Force Support Sq, Al Udeid AB, Qatar)
- Mar 09 - Feb 11, Food Service Accountant, 6th Force Support Sq, MacDill AFB, FL (Sep 09 - Mar 10, NCOIC, Fitness Center, 376th Expeditionary Force Support Sq, Manas AB, Kyrgyzstan)
- Mar 11 - Jun 13, NCOIC, Fitness Assessment Cell, 6th Force Support Sq, MacDill AFB, FL
- Jun 13 - Feb 14, NCOIC, Supply & Quality Assurance, 647th Force Support Sq, JB Pearl Harbor-Hickam, HI
- Mar 14 - Feb 15, NCOIC, Fitness Assessment Cell, 647th Force Support Sq, JB Pearl Harbor-Hickam, HI
- Mar 15 - Feb 16, NCOIC, DV Flight Line Ops, PACAF Protocol, Headquarters, Pacific Air Forces, JB Pearl Harbor-Hickam, HI
- Feb 16 - Oct 16, Logistics Manager, 4th Force Support Sq, Seymour Johnson AFB, NC
- Oct 16 - May 17, NCOIC, Fitness Center, 4th Force Support Sq, Seymour Johnson AFB, NC
- Jun 17 - Jan 19, NCOIC, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Victim Advocate, 4th FW, Seymour Johnson AFB, NC (Apr 18 - Oct 18, NCOIC, Lodging, 380th Expeditionary Force Support Sq, Al Dhafra AB, United Arab Emirates)
- Jan 19 - Jul 22, Superintendent, Sustainment Services, 319th Force Support Sq, Grand Forks, ND (Jul 19 - Feb 20, Superintendent, Sustainment Services, 379th Expeditionary Force Support Sq, Al Udeid AB, Qatar) (Jul 22 - Jan 23, Senior Enlisted Leader, 386th Expeditionary Force Support Sq, Ali Al Salem AB, Qatar)
- Jan 23 - Jul 23, Senior Enlisted Leader, 319th Force Support Sq, Grand Forks AFB, ND
- Jul 23 - Present, Senior Enlisted Leader, 56th Force Support Sq, Luke AFB, AZ







# THE LEGACY YOU LEAVE BEHIND

\*\*\*\*\*

LEADER ★ MENTOR ★ ★ WARRIOR ★ DEFENDER

— 56th FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON —